

**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA  
HELLENIC COMMUNITY OF WA**



**PARISH & COMMUNITY OF STS. CONSTANTINE & HELENE**

**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**Fr. Elpidios Karalis**  
**9328 7452 (T&F)**  
**0407 260 071 (Mobile)**  
Email address: [p.karalis@bigpond.com](mailto:p.karalis@bigpond.com)



**Issue: 6 February 2011**

## **A few thoughts on the Three Hierarchs: St. Basil the Great, St. John Chrysostom and St. Gregory the Theologian**

During the eleventh century the faithful were debating amongst each other to see who was the greatest amongst the three Hierarchs. Some would say St Basil was the greatest and would therefore dislike the faithful who adored St. John Chrysostom or St. Gregory the Theologian (and vice versa). Thus, the three Great Hierarchs all together appeared to the Patriarch of Constantinople in a dream signifying that they were all equal in the sight of God. The conflict then ceased amongst the people and it was decided that all three Hierarch be celebrated together on 30 January in addition to their individual feast days which also fall during the month of January (St. Basil the Great is celebrated on 1 Jan, St. John Chrysostom on 27 January and St Gregory the Theologian on 25 January).

St. Basil did so much good for his community. He was the first bishop to establish orphanages, hospitals and old-aged homes. He also wrote a Divine Liturgy which we recite ten times a year.

St. Gregory is called *the Theologian*, since he was such a great writer on Orthodox Theology. Only two other fathers in our Church have been given the title *theologian*; these include St. Symeon the New Theologian and St. John the Theologian, who is the author of the Book of the Revelation.

St. John Chrysostom is called “the Golden-Mouth”, since he was an amazing speaker. He is the author of the Divine Liturgy celebrated every Sunday and on major feast days.

I wish to now briefly focus on one question relating to the three Hierarchs; what was it that motivated these three men to reach great spiritual heights? The answer is very simple. It was **Divine Love** (θεῖος ἔρωτας).

The Three Hierarchs above all had love for Christ. They loved Christ with all their heart, soul and mind. Nothing could separate them from Christ; not even tribulation, distress, persecution and famine could separate them from the love of Christ.

We also are asked to work towards acquiring this same Love. You see when a young man falls in love with a young lady then both think of each other throughout every moment of the day. There is not one moment when one will not be thinking of the other. Both cannot wait until they meet up after work at the end of the day in order to hear how each other’s day went. Well, this exact same Love we should also have with Christ our God. For Christ is

the Bridegroom and we the Church are His Bride. If we truly love Christ then we should constantly focus on Him in our lives and we should constantly commune in order to be united with Him. We should constantly run every Sunday with great enthusiasm to His holy house, the Church, where He is present in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Nothing in this world should ever separate us from the love of Christ.

The three Hierarchs also had the love and thirst for knowledge. They studied not only subjects relating to theology, but also history, philosophy, physics, astronomy and rhetoric. Although others of their own age were interested in other less important things, the three Hierarchs knew only two roads; the road to school/university and the road to church.

The three Hierarchs also had love for attaining virtues. Struggling in life to attain virtues is greater than attaining knowledge. Today, we live in a society where we are bombarded constantly with information – too much information at times. The level of Knowledge has multiplied over the past few decades. Many people today have acquired degrees and diplomas. However, is the level of knowledge actually what defines a human person? A person is defined as one who not only has great knowledge but one who is embellished with virtues.

The saints of our Church constantly put up a spiritual struggle and with the Grace of God attained many virtues such as chastity, purity, dedication, faith, forgiveness, love, loyalty, obedience, honesty and patience. However, the truth is that at times one has to look extremely hard to find a person embellished with virtues. This we see in the case of Diogenes, the Greek philosopher, who lived over 2400 years ago. On one bright, clear day, Diogenes was walking up and down the market place, holding a lighted lantern high in front of him and searching around as if trying to find something. When people asked him what he was doing, he replied, "I am looking for an honest man."

*Fr Elpidios*

**STS. CONSTANTINE AND HELENE  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 2011**

**COMMENCES SUNDAY 13 FEBRUARY**

**TIME: 10.00 – 11.00AM**

*(In the classroom adjacent to Fr Elpidios' office)*

*All children are welcome to attend*

## **ΑΓΡΥΠΝΙΑ**

Την Τρίτη 22<sup>α</sup> Φεβρουαρίου θα τελεσθεί αγρυπνία εις τον Ιερόν Ναόν των Αγ. Κων/νου και Ελένης, προς τιμήν του Αγίου Ιερομάρτυρος Πολυκάρμου Σμύρνης. Θα αρχίσουμε στις 7.00μμ με Εσπερινό, Όρθρο, και Θεία Λειτουργία. Κάτα την διάρκεια της ακολουθίας θα ψαλλεί και ο παρακλητικός κανών του Ταξιάρχου Μιχαήλ Μανταμάδου. Η αγρυπνία θα λάβει πέρας στις 12.30 τα μεσάνυχτα.

## **ALL NIGHT VIGIL**

An all night vigil will be taking place at the Church of Sts. Constantine & Helene on Tuesday 22 February. The vigil will commence at 7.00pm and conclude at 12.30am. It will include the Vesper & Matins Services and the Divine Liturgy. During the vigil the supplication service to the Archangel Michael of *Mantamados* will be recited.

### **Week Day Divine Liturgies**

**(8.00am – 10.00am)**

Monday	07 February	St. Parthenios ( <u>Patron saint of cancer sufferers</u> )
Thursday	10 February	St. Haralambos
Saturday	26 February	Saturday of Souls

Hellenic Community of WA  
Parish of Sts. Constantine & Helene

### **Meat-Fare Sunday Church Brunch**

**Date: Sunday 27 February 2011**

**Time: 11.30am**

**Venue: Lower Hall of the Hellenic Community Centre**

**Cost: \$20**

**For tickets contact Fr Elpidios on 0407 260 071 or the Church Committee**

## **St. Andrew's Theological College 25<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary**

This year, St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College in Sydney will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. The college is a tertiary institution that trains, nurtures and educates our future religious educators, priests and bishops. The official anniversary dinner will be taking place on Friday 18 February (Sydney) in which approximately 500 people will be attending. His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos, Dean of the College, accompanied by our Assistant Bishops of our Archdiocese, will also be in attendance. It is a happy coincidence that when we celebrate the college's anniversary, there will also be the ordination of its first graduate to become a bishop – the first Australian-born bishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia (see photo below).



*Above: Bishop-elect Iakovos of Militoupolis (born in Sydney). The ordination will take place, God-willing, in the Cathedral of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, Redfern (Sydney) on Sunday 20 February 2011. His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of Australia, will be presiding at the ordination service.*

# ***PANTA AXIOS***

## **Reflections from the 2011 Epiphany Home Blessings**

With the Grace of God approximately 350 homes this year were blessed during the Epiphany season. This is a small number considering that some of our clergy in the Eastern states have 3500 homes to bless. While conducting the home blessings the following was noted:

- Families greatly enjoyed having their homes blessed at the start of the year
- It is good to see that many households have set up an icon corner in their home for prayer and reflection
- Many young families also asked for their homes to be blessed which shows that this very blessed tradition is overflowing into the next generation
- Many people had the opportunity to ask their parish priest various questions on a one-to-one basis
- Young children waited with great enthusiasm for their homes to be blessed
- The respect and love shown to the priest was overwhelming

### ***IS FASTING NECESSARY? ASK THE DEMONS!***

Once, a demonised youth went to the skete of some Fathers in order to be cured by their prayers. Out of humility, however, they fled. For much time, the unfortunate man suffered thus, until a certain elder took pity on him, crossed him with a wooden cross he had on his belt, and cast out the evil spirit. "Since you evict me from my abode," the spirit said, "I will enter you." "Come," the elder courageously answered him. So it is that the demon entered into him and tortured him for a full twelve years. The holy one endured the struggle with fortitude, but fought against his enemy with superhuman fasting and unceasing prayer. All of those years he never even once put food in his mouth, chewing rather a few date pits every evening and swallowing only the juice from them. Finally, conquered by the incessant struggle of the elder, the demon freed him. "Why are you leaving?" the elder asked him. "No one is casting you out." "Your fasting destroyed me," answered the demon, becoming invisible.

*From The Ascetical Homilies of St Isaac the Syrian*

*(Source: <http://www.pantanassamonastery.org/home-2.html>)*

## **PARISH NEWS**

### ***Infant Baptisms***

The following parents recently christened their children at the church of Sts. Constantine and Helene:

Michael Hatzigiannis and Francesca (nee) Santoro. The child received the name Haralambos. The godfather was Panagiotis Pilioglou.

Mihalis Garganis and Efthalia (nee) Samaras. The child received the name Anastasia. The godfather was Minas Samaras.

George Koutlis and Kristy (nee) Baly. The child received the name Nikoleta. The godfather was Christos Ropkas.

Michael Kakulas and Amanda (nee) King. The child received the name Nicholas. The godmother was Catherine King.

David Johns and Phynea (nee) Papalazaros. The child received the name Apostolos. The godmother was Anastasia Papalazaros.

Mikel Hamilton and Kristina (nee) Brown. The child received the name Alexander. The godmother was Agnes Haralambou.

Dimitrios Klifunis and Monica (nee) Toutountzis. The child received the name Riley. The godfather was John Mitsikas.

### ***Holy Chrismation***

Congratulations to Kristy Baly who was recently accepted into the Greek Orthodox Church through the sacrament of Holy Chrismation. Kristy received the name Christina celebrated on 24 July. The godmother was Niki Trillianos.

### ***Marriages***

Congratulations to the following newly weds who were recently married at the Church of Sts. Constantine and Helene:

- George Fatouros and Tina (nee) Nolan. The bestman was Christos Fatouros.
- Petros Scafidas and Garifallia (nee) Bouhlas. The *koumbara* was Anna Scafidas.

## ***Funerals***

Our deepest sympathy to the families of the following people who recently reposed in the Lord:

- John Kyriakos aged 77
- Anastasia Venoutsos aged 64
- Julian Kovacs aged 46
- Stylianos Panayotou aged 78

## **Apostle Luke's School of Iconography**

The Apostle Luke's School of Iconography is pleased to announce that the following Byzantine Iconography course will be offered for 2011.

**Venue:** Saint Andrew's Grammar School, Senior Art Room (Hellenic Dve, Dianella)

**Day/Time:** Saturday 2 - 5pm

**Commencement Date:** 5 March 2011

As part of the course various aspects of the icon writing process will be covered. These include:

- The Application of Gold Leaf & Inscriptions
- The use of a line diagram
- The preparation and mixing of Egg Tempera Paint
- The icon writing process of the face, hair and clothes

**Costs:** Tuition: **\$10 per lesson**

Materials: Course Notes, Pigments, Brushes, Gold Leaf **\$140**

**Contacts:** Peter Kakulas  
Mobile: 0417 957 688  
Home: 9341 7989  
Email: p.kakulas@bigpond.com

Please reserve your place early either by email or phone before the commencement date so that the materials can be ordered.

## **Invitation to sit for the CGL Examinations 2011**

Once again, the *Centre for the Greek Language (CGL)* invites all interested persons to apply for this year's CGL Examinations at a level to suit everyone!

As in the past, this year's CGL Examinations will take place at St. Andrew's Grammar in May. There are 7 levels on offer, catering to all Greek-language competencies. Of special mention is the new level for children aged 8-12 years old, the new level for beginner adolescents and adults, and the new level for those persons who possess excellent knowledge of the Greek language.

The full complement of levels on offer this year is as follows:

- **A1** for children 8-12 years old (Elementary knowledge)
- **A1** for adolescents and adults (Elementary knowledge)
- **A2** (Basic knowledge) – old Level 1
- **B1** (Intermediate knowledge) – old Level 2
- **B2** (Good knowledge) – old Level 3
- **Γ1** (Very good knowledge) – old Level 4
- **Γ2** (Excellent knowledge)

The examinations will be held on the following days:

- **Tuesday 10 May** for levels A1 (children, adolescents and adults), A2 and B1
- **Wednesday 11 May** for levels B2 and Γ1
- **Thursday 12 May** for Γ2

Fees have been set by Greece and are as follows:

- **\$110** for both A1 levels
- **\$130** for A2 and B1 levels
- **\$150** for B2, Γ1 and Γ2 levels

For more information and registration forms, please contact the following CGL Committee members:

Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis at [angeliki\\_777@hotmail.com](mailto:angeliki_777@hotmail.com)

Mr. Pavlos Iosifidis at [piosifidis@sag.wa.edu.au](mailto:piosifidis@sag.wa.edu.au)

Mrs. Evridiki Politi at [epoliti62@hotmail.com](mailto:epoliti62@hotmail.com)

Mrs. Katerina Reklitis at [kreklitis@sag.wa.edu.au](mailto:kreklitis@sag.wa.edu.au)

Mrs. Eva Tsapazi at [etsapazi@sag.wa.edu.au](mailto:etsapazi@sag.wa.edu.au)

**Enrolments commence Tuesday 1 February  
and close Friday 18 March.**

The CGL Committee members and I look forward to your enrolment for this year's CGL Examinations.

**Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis**  
**Director of the CGL at St. Andrew's Grammar**

**NEXT ENGLISH DIVINE LITURGY**

**Where:** Church of Evangelismos (West Perth)

**Date:** Saturday 12 February

**Time:** (Matins) 8.00am to 8.45am

(Liturgy) 8.45am to 10.00am

## Άγιος Χαράλαμπος ο Ιερομάρτυρας

Ο Άγιος Χαράλαμπος ήταν ιερέυς στη Μαγνησία της Μικράς Ασίας και έζησε επί αυτοκρατορίας του Σεπτιμίου Σεβήρου (193 - 211 μ.Χ.). Όταν το έτος 198 μ.Χ. ο Σέβηρος εξαπέλυσε απηνή διωγμό κατά των Χριστιανών, ο έπαρχος της Μαγνησίας Λουκιανός, συνέλαβε τον Άγιο και του ζήτησε να αρνηθεί την πίστη του. Όμως ο Άγιος όχι μόνο δεν το έκανε αυτό, αλλά αντίθετα ομολόγησε στον έπαρχο την προσήλωσή του στον Χριστό και δήλωσε με παρρησία ότι σε οποιοδήποτε βασανιστήριο και να υποβληθεί δεν πρόκειται να αρνηθεί την πίστη της Εκκλησίας. Τότε η σκοτισμένη και σαρκική ψυχή του Λουκιανού επέτεινε την οργή της και διέταξε να αρχίσουν τα φρικώδη βασανιστήρια στο γέροντα ιερέα. Πρώτα τον γύμνωσαν και ο ίδιος ο Λουκιανός, παίρνοντας το ξίφος του προσπάθησε να πληγώσει το σώμα του Αγίου. Όμως αποκόπηκαν τα χέρια του και έμειναν κρεμασμένα στο σώμα του Ιερομάρτυρα και μόνο ύστερα από προσευχή του Αγίου συγκολλήθηκαν αυτά πάλι στο σώμα και ο ηγεμόνας κατέστη υγιής. Βλέποντας αυτό το θαύμα του Αγίου πολλοί από τους δημίους πίστεψαν στον αληθινό Θεό.

Με το ζόφο στο νου και με τη θηριωδία στην καρδιά, ο έπαρχος έδωσε εντολή να διαπομπεύσουν τον Άγιο και να τον σύρουν διά μέσου της πόλεως με χαλινάρι. Τέλος, διέταξε τον αποκεφαλισμό του Αγίου, ο οποίος με το μαρτύριό του έλαβε το αμαράντινο στέφανο της δόξας σε ηλικία 113ετών.

Τμήματα της τιμίας κάρας αυτού φυλάσσονται στη ιερά μονή Αγίου Στεφάνου Μετεώρων και στον ομώνυμο προσκυνηματικό ναό της κωμοπόλεως Θεσπιών της Βοιωτίας.

(<http://www.saint.gr/2011/02/10/1789/saint.aspx>)